Exploration by Soviet Experts in Cambay and Cauvery basin

740. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a protocol has been signed between India and the Soviet Union providing for intensive integrated exploration by Soviet experts in the Cambay and Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any other projects have been finalised for drilling and oil exploration; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the proposed work programme are as under:

	North Cambay	Cauvery
Seismic Survey	3100 LKM	4000 LKM
Drilling :		
(a) No. of wells	38	37
(b) Meterage	81500	122000
Duration	1986-1992	1986-95

Seventy percent of the cost of the exploration work is expected to be covered by Soviet credit.

(c) It has been decided to invite offers from reputed international oil companies for exploration in 27 blocks in the offshore areas of India. Bids have not yet been invited.

Inadequate process of crude oil

741. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATNRAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire Indian Crude can not be processed locally at present, due to inadequacies in refining capacities; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken/contemplated to be taken to ensure the processing of the entire Indian crude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Investment by American companies for oil and gas

742. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission authorities have asked a visiting U.S. Trade Mission on oil and gas industry to identify American companies with expertise in oil and gas production, who are willing to invest in India; and

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposal from U.S. companies has since been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

O.N.G.C. to meet its resource gaps

743. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since allowed the ONGC to go in for commercial borrowing both from within and outside the country to meet its resource gaps during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?